

REMARKS

In the specification, new paragraph [0000.1] has been added to provide reference to United States Government support awarded by the NIST.

Claims 1-54 were originally filed with the present application. No claims are currently amended or canceled, and new claim 55 is currently added. Consequently, claims 1-55 remain pending in the present application.

Consideration of this application in light of the above amendments is requested.

An early formal notice of allowance of claims 1-55 is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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<p>I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:</p> <p><u>12-23-03</u> ^{Date}</p> <p><u><i>Karen G. Underwood</i></u></p> <p>Signature of person mailing paper and fee</p>
